

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously presented) A shock-absorbing basketball goal system comprising:
 - a base;
 - a neck movably coupled to the base extending a horizontal distance from the base;
 - a backboard attached to a distal end of the neck; and
 - a shock-absorbing mechanism for absorbing substantially downward shocks to the neck by permitting movement of the neck from an original position and returning the neck to the original position, the shock-absorbing mechanism including:
 - a shock absorber coupled to the base; and
 - a cable connecting the shock absorber to the neck.
3. (Original) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 2, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism further includes:
 - a housing retaining the shock-absorber; and
 - a guide attached to the shock absorber and connected to the cable, the guide being movable within the housing for guiding a movable end of the shock absorber while the shock absorber expands and contracts.
4. (Original) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 3, wherein the guide includes a slide member for translating within a channel defined by the housing.
5. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, further comprising a mounting post extending between the base and the neck, the mounting post having a forward side oriented toward the backboard and an opposite rearward side, wherein the neck is movably attached to the mounting post and the ~~compression gas spring shock-absorbing mechanism~~ is attached to the rearward side.

6. (Original) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 5, wherein the neck is pivotally attached to the mounting post.

7. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein the backboard is disposed a horizontal distance of 4 feet to 12 feet from the base.

8. (Original) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 7, wherein the horizontal distance is 5 feet to 7 feet.

9. (Original) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 7, wherein the horizontal distance is 9 feet to 11 feet.

10. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein the base is adapted to be permanently affixed to a horizontal playing surface.

11. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein the base is adapted to be fixedly attached to a roof.

12. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein basketball goal system is portable and the base is movable with respect to the ground.

13. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein the base is adapted to be generally affixed to a wall.

14. (Currently amended) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein the base is adapted to be removably attached to a vertical support.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously presented) A shock-absorbing basketball goal system comprising:
a base;
a mounting post attached to the base;
a neck rotatably attached to the mounting post;
a backboard attached to a distal end of the neck and disposed a horizontal distance from the base; and

a shock-absorbing mechanism generally disposed on a rearward side of the mounting post opposite the backboard, the shock-absorbing mechanism configured for absorbing substantially downward shocks to the neck by permitting movement of the neck from an original position, the shock-absorbing mechanism including:

a shock absorber coupled to the mounting post;
a cable connecting the shock absorber to the neck;
a housing retaining the shock-absorber; and
a guide attached to the shock absorber and connected to the cable, the guide being movable within the housing for guiding a movable end of the shock absorber while the shock absorber expands and contracts.

17. (Original) The basketball goal system of claim 16, wherein the guide includes a slide member for translating within a channel of the housing.

18. (Currently amended) The basketball goal system of claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the backboard is rotatably attached to the neck to provide adjustment for irregularities in the plumb of a support to which the base is attached.

19. (Original) The basketball goal system of claim 18, further comprising a rim coupled to the backboard, the rim being pivotable with the backboard about an axis for orienting the rim in a substantially horizontal position.

20. (Original) A breakaway basketball goal system comprising:
a base;

a mounting post attached to the base;
a neck movably attached to the mounting post;
a backboard attached to a distal end of the neck and disposed a horizontal distance from the base of 4 feet or more; and
a shock-absorbing mechanism generally disposed on a rearward side of the mounting post opposite the backboard, the shock-absorbing mechanism comprising:
a shock absorber coupled to the base;
a cable connecting the shock absorber to the neck;
a housing retaining the shock-absorber, the housing defining a channel;
and
a slide attached to the shock absorber and connected to the cable for translating within the channel to guide a movable end of the shock absorber while the shock absorber expands and contracts.

21. (Currently amended) The basketball goal system of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism ~~compression gas spring~~ maintains the neck in the original position without a lock mechanism supporting the neck in the original position.

22. (Currently amended) The basketball goal system of claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism ~~gas shock~~ maintains the neck in the original position without a lock mechanism supporting the neck in the original position.

23. (New) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 2, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes a compression gas spring.

24. (New) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 2, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes a gas shock.

25. (New) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 16, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes a compression gas spring.

26. (New) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 16, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes a gas shock.

27. (New) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 20, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes a compression gas spring.

28. (New) The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 20, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes a gas shock.